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LETTER DATED 21 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a press statement by the Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, issued on 17 August 1999.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Press statement by the Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, issued on 17 August 1999

On many occasions during the past few months the Government of Ukraine denied as absolutely groundless the allegations implicating Ukraine in the violation of sanctions imposed by the Security Council, including the sanctions imposed against the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA). However, Ukraine remains deeply concerned that such insinuations still appear occasionally in some mass media.

In this connection, the Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine was authorized to make the following statement:

"On 29 July 1999, the Security Council heard a briefing concerning the situation in Angola by the Chairman of the Security Council Sanctions Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 864 (1993) of 15 September 1993, Ambassador Robert Fowler. In the course of this briefing, while reporting on the results of his recent visit to Ukraine, Ambassador Fowler emphasized that the Government of Ukraine had given him categorical assurances that allegations of violation of Council-imposed sanctions by Ukraine were without foundation and that Ukraine was fully in compliance with international laws and norms relating to the enforcement of such sanctions. Furthermore, the steps taken by Ukraine to ensure compliance were professed by the Chairman of the Security Council Sanctions Committee as an example of specific measures to implement sanctions against UNITA.

"Moreover, during the audience granted by the President of the Republic of Angola, H.E. Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, to the Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Olexander Maidannyk, in June 1999, and the meeting between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Borys Tarasyuk, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola, H.E. Mr. Joao Bernardo de Miranda, held in July 1999, special attention was paid to the problem of circulating rumours about the implication of Ukraine in the violation of Security Council sanctions against UNITA. In the course of both meetings, the Angolan side affirmed the absolute groundlessness of the assertions that Ukraine renders support to UNITA. Both sides reiterated that the strict implementation of the measures imposed by the Security Council against UNITA constitutes an essential condition for the restoration of peace in Angola.

"In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine would kindly request the Governments of the Member States of the United Nations to take into account this official information while determining the value of relevant unconfirmed reports from the mass media or any other sources by means of which this anti-Ukrainian campaign is being carried out."